

CLAIMS

What is Claimed is:

1. A spout assembly including:

1. (Amended) A spout assembly including:

a spout aperture bounded by a cylindrical wall extending through the spout assembly;

a first wall and a second wall supporting multiple horizontal sealing ribs and extending away from the cylindrical wall of the aperture, said first and second walls and ribs forming an area through which said spout aperture passes; and

wherein said first wall, said second wall and said cylindrical wall [and horizontal sealing ribs are relatively thin] have a thickness less than 0.035 inches.

wall and horizontal sealing ribs are relatively thin.

2. The spout assembly of Claim 1 wherein said first wall, said second wall and said cylindrical wall have a thickness substantially equal to 0.020 inches.

3. The spout assembly of Claim 2 wherein ribs are formed on said first and second walls and across the cylindrical wall of the aperture which are substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said spout aperture.

4. The spout assembly of Claim 3 wherein said first and second walls and horizontal ribs form a canoe-shaped profile.

11/11/02 5. (Amended) A spout assembly with cylindrical walls and meltable fins extending radially from said cylindrical walls, wherein said cylindrical walls are [relatively thin] less than 0.035 inches thick.

6. The spout assembly of Claim 5 wherein said cylindrical walls are approximately 0.020 inches thick.

7. The method of securing a fitment to a package including the steps of:

providing package wall material including first and second edges of said material;

providing a fitment with relatively thin walls from a source;

engaging said fitment with a heated mandrel thereby warming said fitment;

inserting said fitment between said first and second edges of said material;

closing the outer sealing jaws onto the first and second edges of said material with said fitment engaged on a heated mandrel; and

sealing said fitment to a portion of said first and second edges.

8. The method of securing a fitment of claim 7 wherein said heated mandrel heats said fitment to a temperature between substantially 20-30°F below a softening point of the material of said fitments.